



Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
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This regulatory action clarifies which individuals with a 'male-only' or 'frozen' Limited Crab Catcher (LCC) license can upgrade to an unlimited Tidal Fish License (TFL). In 2009 the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) determined that over 500 LCC licenses were 'inactive'. Inactive licenses are those with no reported harvest between April 1, 2004 and December 15, 2008. In February 2010 a regulation went into effect that required inactive license holders to declare their LCC to be male-only or frozen. The purpose of that regulation was to prevent inactive licenses from placing additional harvest pressure on female crabs. The management benefits would be compromised if all of these latent LCC holders were able to upgrade to a TFL because it would put greater harvest pressure on female crabs. License holders with a TFL are able to fish many more pots, and have larger female bushel limits than LCC licenses.

DNR recognizes that a small number of individuals with an inactive LCC already have or are in the process of acquiring additional license authorizations. The Department has determined that upgrades by these individuals will not compromise the management objective. Only those individuals who meet the following requirements by April 6, 2010 will be allowed to use a male-only or frozen LCC license to upgrade to a TFL beginning in the 2011 renewal period:

- 1) possess a male-only or frozen LCC and at least two additional commercial fishing authorizations;
- 2) possess a male-only or frozen LCC and before April 6, 2010 has entered into the process of acquiring two additional authorizations through the DNR apprenticeship program or through approved permanent or business transfer; or
- 3) possess a male-only or frozen LCC and one additional authorization and before April 6, 2010 have entered into the process of acquiring one additional authorization through the DNR apprenticeship program or through approved permanent or business transfer.

